

Kentucky's Seat Belt Law

No person shall operate a motor vehicle manufactured after 1965 on the public roadways of this state unless the driver and all passengers are wearing a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt

The driver is responsible for assuring that himself and all passengers in the vehicle are properly restrained.

Failure to wear a seat belt is a secondary violation. A uniform citation for a seat belt violation may be issued only if an officer has cause to stop the person for reasons other than a violation of the seat belt law.

Any person who violates the provision of Kentucky's Seat Belt Law shall be fined an amount not to exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25).

No warnings will be issued to those who are found not to be wearing their seat belts as a secondary violation.

Kentucky's Child Restraint Law

Any driver of a motor vehicle, when transporting a child of forty (40) inches in height or less in a motor vehicle operated on the roadways, streets, and highways of this state, shall have the child properly secured in a child restraint system of a type meeting federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Any person who violates the provisions of Kentucky's Child Restraint Law shall be fined fifty dollars (\$50) and shall pay an additional fee of ten dollars (\$10) which shall be deposited in the Traumatic Brain Injury Trust Fund.



Governor's Coalition for Highway Safety

Kentucky State Police
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
Tricon (KFC, Taco Bell, Pizza Hut)
Kentucky Association of County Officials
Ford Motor Company
Toyota
UPS
League of Cities
Houchens Industries
Kentucky Motor Transport Association
Kroger Company
Kentucky Association of Highway Contractors
Valvoline
AREA Bank
Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers
Kentucky Consulting Engineering Council
Camping World
Kentucky Hospital Association
Drive Smart Kentucky
Kentucky Medical Association
Governor's Highway Safety Program
Kentucky Nurses Association
Kentucky Sheriff's Association
AAA Louisville
General Motors, Corvette Plant
Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police
Kentucky Association of Trial Attorneys
Kentucky State District Council of Carpenters
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Kentucky Alliance for Motor Vehicle Safety
Kentuckians for Better Transportation
Brain Injury Association of Kentucky
Kentucky Ambulance Providers Association
Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services



Governor's Coalition for Highway Safety



In 2001, Kentucky traffic crashes were responsible for 850 fatalities and over 50,000 injuries. Many of these deaths and injuries could have been prevented if the victims had been properly restrained.

In an effort to save lives and reduce traffic-related deaths and injuries on our roadways this year, the Governor's Coalition for Highway Safety has launched **Buckle Up Kentucky** in conjunction with the national Operation America Buckles Up Children Mobilization. Through this initiative, state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies will patrol and conduct traffic safety checkpoints in high crash locations to enforce Kentucky's traffic laws with special emphasis on occupant protection. There will be **ZERO TOLERANCE** for those who fail to restrain their child passengers.

If you are among those Kentuckians who don't regularly buckle up yourself or children, just remember, do it for those you love.

Kentucky is serious. We're going to save lives.

Did You Know?

- This year in America, approximately 8,000 adults and children will die in crashes because they failed to buckle their seat belts.
- Traffic-related injuries are the leading cause of all injury death in America.
- Every hour someone dies in America simply because they didn't take the time to buckle up.
- Traffic-related injuries are the leading cause of death for children and young adults ages six to twenty-seven.
- Wearing seat belts is the most effective means of reducing fatalities and serious injuries in traffic crashes.
- Motor vehicle crashes cost society \$150.5 billion every year, including \$17 billion in health care costs.
- If Kentucky's present seat belt usage rate increased by 10%, an estimated 57 lives would be saved and 1,086 serious injuries prevented. This represents an economic savings of nearly \$80 million to the Commonwealth.
- Buckling up is required by Kentucky law.

For more information or comments, please contact the Kentucky Governor's Highway Safety Program at (502) 564-6700.

Seat Belt Guide

HOW TO WEAR A SEAT BELT

In addition to the law, safety experts recommend the following guidelines to keep motorists as safe as possible:

ADULTS

- Wear lap belt low and snug.
- Wear shoulder belt snug across chest.
- Keep back of vehicle seat in upright position.



CHILDREN

- Remain in child seat until weight reaches 40 lbs.
- Best to use approved booster seat after child reaches 40 lbs. and until the seat belt fits properly.
- Use shoulder and lap belts whenever possible provided shoulder belt crosses collar bone, not face or throat.
- Don't allow child to sit on a pillow.
- If lap/shoulder belt is not available, lap only belt should be worn as low and snug as possible.



PREGNANT WOMEN

- Wear lap belt *below* abdomen.
- Wear shoulder belt across chest.
- If your seat belt is too short, consult auto dealer for seat belt extender.



CAUTION! SEAT BELTS SHOULD NEVER BE:

- Under arm
- Across throat
- Loose
- Over face